

President.—We will rise for lunch now.

(The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and reassembled at 3 p. m. when the Deputy President presided.)

Deputy President.—What is next item of business?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The second reading of the Bill.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In deference to the wishes of the Members of the Party, to which I belong, although it is not a Party measure, especially two of the Christian Members, Messrs. Chakko and C. A. Ouseph, I do not proceed further with this Bill. Since I have introduced the Bill, and it has got to be carried to the next session, I would not request you to suspend the Standing Order in this connection.

The Cochin Cow Protection Bill.

Deputy President.—The next item of business is the Bill standing in the name of Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Since there is no probability of having another sitting of this Council, I do not wish to move the Bill.

(Hence the Bill was considered withdrawn.)

Resolutions on matters of general public interest.

1. Liquor shops.

(Mr. K. T. Mathew being absent, the following resolution was considered withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends that no liquor shops shall be allowed to be kept open after 7 p. m. from the beginning of next year".)

2. Signboards.

Deputy President.—The next item of business is the resolution standing in the name of Dr. A. G. Menon.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, I want just to bring to the notice of the President and the Council the difficulties of the travelling public. I do not want to make any long speech on this resolution. It is from my own experience gained when I first started from Palghat for the first meeting that led me to frame this resolution. Unfortunately for want of signboards, I had once actually gone to the Chalakkudi river, and since it was early morning, I could not get anybody to show me the way. I had to stop more than an hour.

On 18th Karkadagam 1101, I put the following question, whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to the difficulties experienced by travellers for want of signboards in

land and water. The reply was 'Yes'. So the Government's attention was drawn to the actual difficulty of the travelling public for want of proper signboards. Then the second question was will the Government be pleased to order the Public Works Department to put up the necessary signboards on all public roads and canals. The reply was 'Yes'. It is now a year and a half since those questions were asked and answered. And may I ask the Government was anything done in the way of assisting the travelling public, till now?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Some boards were put up.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Yes. Two boards were put up. I find in Ernakulam near the school as "Drive slowly, School". That is the work of the Municipality. After all, it is not a signboard. It is a caution board.

On one same occasion I had to go to Trivandrum. With the Travancore Almanac; I was, without any difficulty, able to reach Trivandrum. Persons travelling very often in the Cochin State may not feel the difficulty, but to a stranger coming from outside it is very great. In all the roads of British districts, from Madras Palghat, Calicut, Tellicherry, etc., there are signboards. There is compulsion to put up signboards. This is done by the Municipality in Municipal areas, and where there is no Municipality, the District Boards undertake the work. This proved to be a great help to travelling public. I know the difficulty while travelling on the roads in Cochin State; and I presume similar difficulty is felt in the canals also. So I tabled this resolution to bring all these grievances before the Government, and request that signboards may be put up on land and in canals.

Deputy President.—I have not seen signboards put up in canals.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In Malabar and other districts there is more of road communication excepting the Ponnani Taluk. I do not know about canals. If the Government were to spend a very small sum to put up signboards, the travelling public would have been greatly benefited.

I sent in a number of resolutions; unfortunately this unimportant resolution failed in the ballot box.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—It is not unimportant. It is very important.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—To my mind there are more important resolutions. But now I bring this grievance of the public to the notice of the Government.

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—I support the resolution. It is very easy for the Government to carry out this small piece of

work, since the Government is getting down a retired Engineer from Travancore, where it exists.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government accepts the resolution. The Chief Engineer is working it up.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—If the Chief Engineer has taken up the work, I have nothing to say. I had actually to suffer.

3. *Members of the Standing Finance Committee.*

(Mr. K. T. Mathew being absent, the following three resolutions were considered withdrawn:—

"This Council requests the Government to reduce the number of the official Members of the Standing Finance Committee to two and increase the number of non-official Members to four."

4. *Model Agricultural Farms.*

"This Council requests the Government to open model agricultural farms in every taluk from the beginning of next year."

5. *Property Qualification for Election to Panchayats.*

"This Council recommends to the Government to abolish immediately the property qualification required for candidates standing for election to the Village Panchayats.")

6. *Lapsing of allotments.*

Deputy President.—The next item of business is the resolution standing in the name of Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar—Sir, the resolution which I have tabled to-day reads thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that allotments which have received budget sanction for any work should not be allowed to lapse; but if they lapse under any unavoidable circumstances, such amounts should be kept in suspense and be utilised for that work only in the succeeding year."

The resolution is very clear; and I am not going to make any long speech. Large sums of money are spent for investigation, etc., and Government have given budget sanction for some works. For some reason or other, such works are not taken up, and the amounts allotted lapse. If they lapse, sometimes such works are not taken up again next year. Such being the case, I have brought this resolution to the notice of the Council.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—I second the resolution.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Sir, I rise to oppose this resolution.

Ever now allotments for works are not generally allowed to lapse, but for circumstances unforeseen at the time of the bud-